

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 02517 091433Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 EB-07
COME-00 L-03 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 NSC-05 SS-15
/115 W

-----092135Z 095872 /72

R 091340Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7971
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY SANA

UNCLAS KUWAIT 2517

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD
SUBJECT: KUWAIT BOYCOTT DEVELOPMENTS: REACTIONS TO U.S.
ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION

1. LOCAL PRESS MAY 7 CARRIED STATEMENT BY UNNAMED "OFFICIAL
SOURCE" COMMENTING ON RECENT US CONGRESSIONAL ACTION REGARD-
ING BOYCOTT. UNOFFICIAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION FOLLOWS:
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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 02517 091433Z

"THE AMERICAN REACTIONS TO ARAB BOYCOTTING MAY HAVE
FAR-REACHING EFFECTS NOT ONLY ON ARAB-AMERICAN COMMERCIAL
RELATIONS BUT ON POLITICAL RELATIONS AS WELL. WE HOPE
THAT ANY AMERICAN LEGISLATION CONCERNING BOYCOTTING WILL
BE BASED ON FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION. WE ALSO
HOPE THAT OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH MAY FOLLOW THE AMERICANS WILL

STUDY CAREFULLY SUCH ACTS AS THESE THAT WILL INFLICT HARM ON THEIR INTERESTS AND RELATIONS WITH ARABS."

2. ARTICLE WENT ON TO QUOTE SOURCE ON "LEGENDS" CONCERNING ARAB BOYCOTT: A) BOYCOTTING IS PRACTICED AGAINST FIRMS OWNED BY JEWS: SOURCE SAID THAT "THREE SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIALS" AND ARAB OFFICIALS HAVE STATED THAT ARAB BOYCOTTING DOES NOT AIM AT RELIGIOUS OR RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. B) BOYCOTTING IS AIMED AT PREVENTING ALL DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL: BOYCOTTING RULES DO NOT PREVENT EXPORT OF ORDINARY GOODS; THEY ARE AIMED AT INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES AND LICENSING ARRANGEMENTS. C) COMPANIES THAT SUBMIT REPORTS TO U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PARTICIPATE EFFECTIVELY IN BOYCOTT: SUBMISSION OF FORM "DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE COMPANY HAS CHANGED ITS STAND TOWARDS BOYCOTTING OR THAT IT HAS TAKEN POSITIVE STEPS TO BOYCOTT ISRAEL": SOURCE OBSERVES THAT USG HAS MODIFIED FORMS AS A RESULT. D) ONLY ARAB BOYCOTTING "OF THE FIRST DEGREE" (PRESUMABLY A REFERENCE TO PRIMARY BOYCOTTING), IS LEGAL: SOURCE STATED THAT US PRACTICED SECONDARY BOYCOTTING AGAINST NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM AND CUBA.

3. ABOVE STATEMENT IS CONSIDERABLY SOFTER IN TONE THAN THAT OF UNNAMED GOK MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION SPOKESMAN, QUOTED IN LOCAL PRESS APRIL 24: "THESE ACTS (U.S. ANTI-BOYCOTT LEGISLATION) ARE NONE OF OUR CONCERN. AS FOR KUWAIT AND THE OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES, THE BOYCOTT LAWS WILL CONTINUE TO BE APPLIED WITHOUT EXCEPTING ANY

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PAGE 03 KUWAIT 02517 091433Z

COMPANY OF ANY NATIONALITY. WHOEVER WANTS TO HAVE TRANSACTIONS WITH US HAS TO COMPLY WITH ALL OUR LAWS AND LEGISLATION, AND THE BOYCOTT LAW COMES FIRST. THE AMERICAN COMPANIES WHICH REFUSE TO ABIDE BY THE BOYCOTT LAWS WILL BE REPLACED BY COMPANIES OF OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH RESPECT THEM. THIS LEGISLATION WAS PASSED AS A RESULT OF ZIONIST INITIATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES. WHAT IS IMPORTANT FOR US IS NOT WHAT LAWS ARE PASSED IN OTHER COUNTRIES, BUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OUR OWN LAWS WHICH ARE DESIGNED TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL RIGHTS."

4. HARD-LINE STATEMENT BY GOK OFFICIAL ECHOED THAT OF NON-KUWAITI REACTIONS REPORTED HERE. MOHAMMED MAHJOUB, COMMISSIONER OF ANTI-ISRAEL BOYCOTT OFFICE, DURING APRIL 18 VISIT TO KUWAIT TERMED REPORTS OF PRESSURE ON HIS OFFICE TO RELAX ITS BOYCOTT STAND AS "AS SUSPICIOUS AND CUNNING". LOCAL PRESS ON MAY 4 QUOTED DIRECTOR OF QATAR BOYCOTT OFFICE AS SAYING THAT CAIRO MEETING WOULD TAKE MEASURES TO TIGHTEN BOYCOTT. DIRECTOR ALSO DENIED "REPORTS THAT ARAB

COUNTRIES ARE CANCELLING (REQUIREMENT FOR) CERTIFICATES
OF ORIGIN".
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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-May-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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